

## 2012 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Moose

PERIOD: 6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013

HERD: MO415 - UINTA

HUNT AREAS: 27, 35, 44, 901-902

PREPARED BY: JEFF SHORT

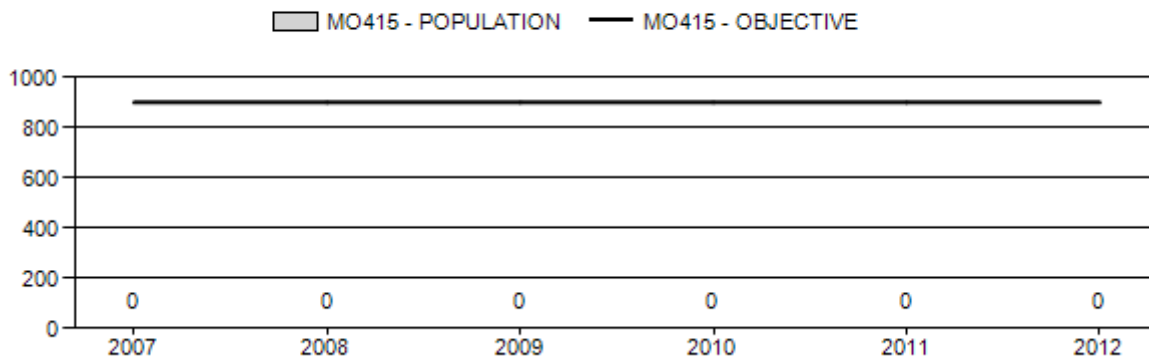
	<u>2007 - 2011 Average</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 Proposed</u>
Population:	NA	NA	NA
Harvest:	42	16	18
Hunters:	54	21	20
Hunter Success:	78%	76%	90%
Active Licenses:	54	21	20
Active License Percent:	78%	76%	90%
Recreation Days:	456	163	150
Days Per Animal:	10.9	10.2	8.3
Males per 100 Females	53	35	
Juveniles per 100 Females	49	52	

Population Objective:	900
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	NA
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	NA
Model Date:	None

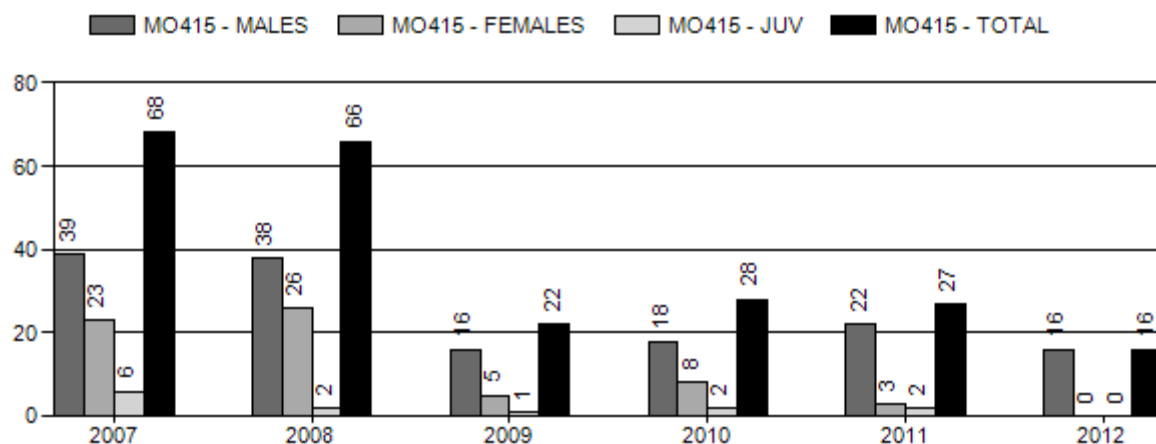
**Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):**

	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females $\geq$ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Males $\geq$ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA	NA
Total:	NA	NA
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA	NA

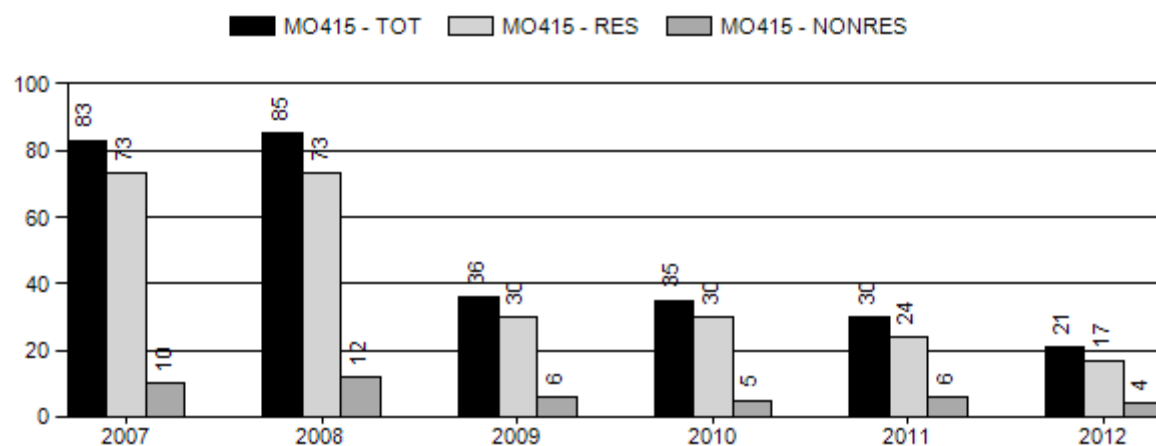
### Population Size - Postseason



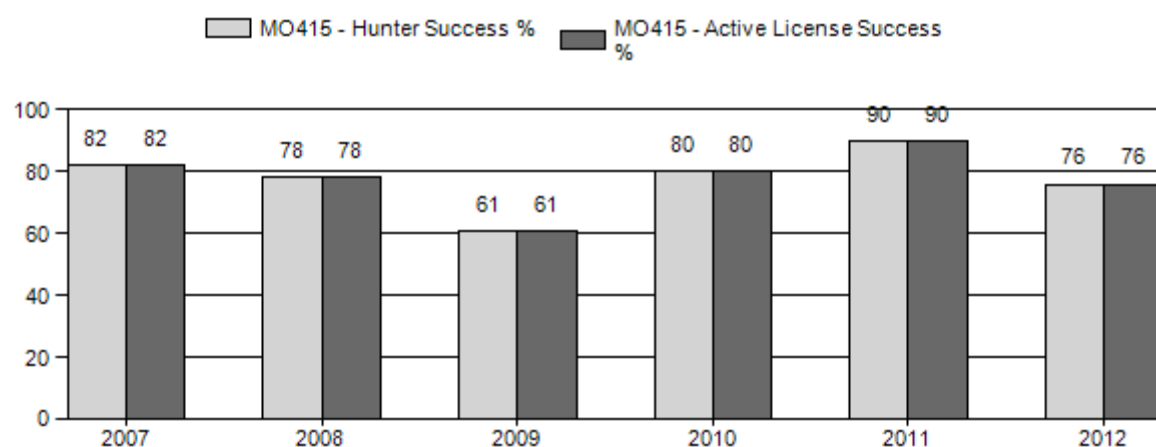
## Harvest



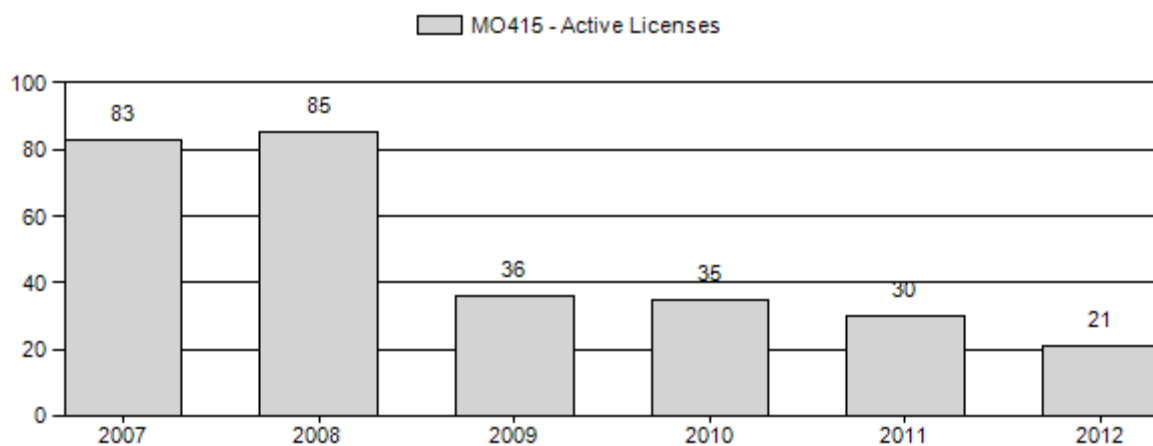
## Number of Hunters



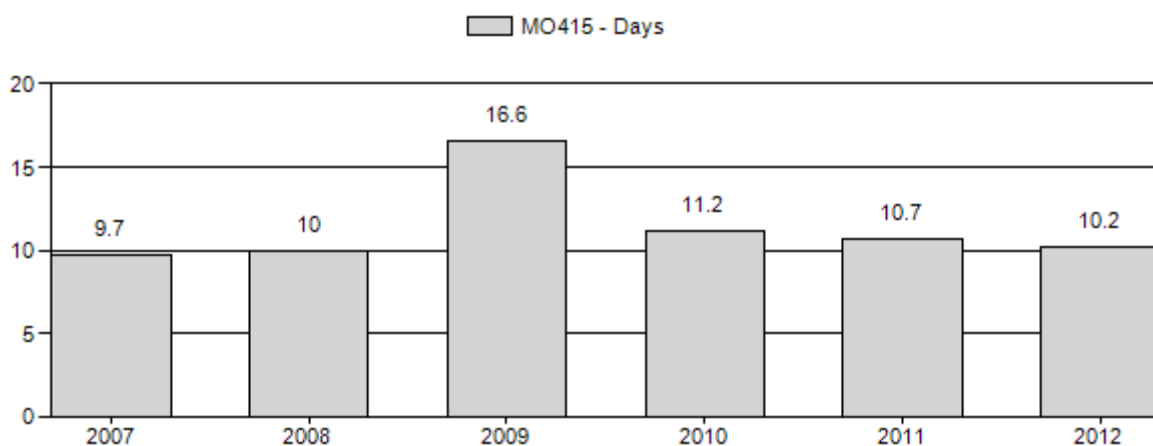
## Harvest Success



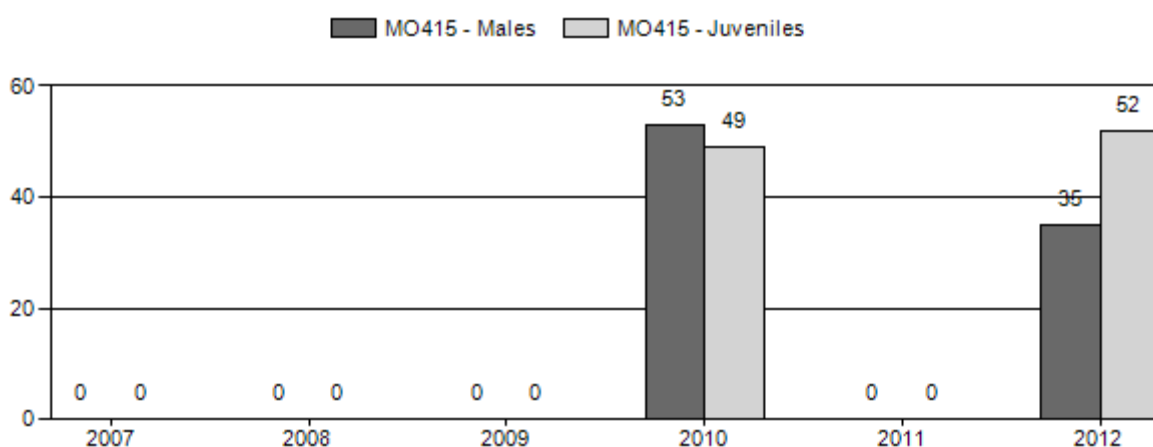
## Active Licenses



## Days per Animal Harvested



## Postseason Animals per 100 Females



## 2007 - 2012 Postseason Classification Summary

for Moose Herd MO415 - UINTA

Year	Post Pop	MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES		Tot Cts	Cls Obj	Males to 100 Females				Young to		
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			Yling	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2007	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2008	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2009	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2010	0	0	0	62	26%	118	50%	58	24%	238	0	0	0	53	± 0	49	± 0	32
2011	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2012	0	0	52	52	19%	149	54%	77	28%	278	0	0	35	35	± 0	52	± 0	38

## 2013 HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES : **Moose**

HERD UNIT : **UINTA (415)**

HUNT AREAS: **27, 35, 44**

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
27	1	Oct. 1	Nov. 20	15	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose
35	1	Oct. 1	Nov. 20	5	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose
44					CLOSED
27, 35	Archery	Sept. 1	Sept. 30		Refer to Section 3 of this chapter

Hunt Area	License Type	Quota change from 2012
Herd Unit Total		

### Management Evaluation

**Current Postseason Population Management Objective:** 900

**Management Strategy:** Special

**2012 Postseason Population Estimate:** ~300

**2013 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate:** ~300

### **Herd Unit Issues**

This is an interstate herd shared with Utah. Moose summering in the Uinta Mountains in Utah come to Wyoming to winter. Limited winter range is a driving issue for this herd. A significant portion of the lower elevation moose habitat is on private land so landowner tolerance of moose can be an issue, and moose regularly enter towns in the Bridger Valley, or Evanston and create safety concerns. Moose coming into towns and residing in yards continues, but is far less common than in the past due to lower moose numbers.

Our biggest concern is our lack of knowledge on disease issues in this herd. We have had several documented cases of elaeophorosis caused deaths in this herd and feel that this may have had a significant population effected on the herd. This appears to have stabilized and known elaeophorosis caused mortalities have been much less common in the last two years. However,

we are continuing our conservative management strategy until we see moose numbers rebound significantly. Additionally, this herd has had numerous cases of keratoconjunctivitis (pink-eye) over the years.

In 2006 Hunt Area 44 was added to the herd unit. There have been increasing numbers of moose in this area. This has created some concern to habitat managers since these moose are impacting our ability to reestablish riparian shrubs in these xeric habitats. The objective has been to keep moose from establishing in this area. For 2012 Area 44 was added to the Area 35 hunt in the packet. For 2013 Area 44 will be closed to moose hunting due to concern over offering an opportunity with extremely low moose numbers, and the fact they will use their preference points if they successfully draw the license. It is undesirable for hunters to concentrate in Area 35. Area 44 will be reopened when moose numbers start to grow again. The objective and management strategy for this herd were last revised in 1998.

### **Weather**

Weather during 2012 and into 2013 was extremely dry and warmer than normal. The winters of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 were mild with low snowpack resulting in good over winter survival. However, the dry spring and summer of 2012 negatively impacted summer and winter range forage production. Conditions were better at higher elevations. The winter of 2012/13 has been very mild and moose have not moved far into Wyoming.

### **Habitat**

Habitat data collection has been inconsistently collected in this herd unit and has been absent in the recent past.

### **Field Data**

Since data is very limited in this herd it is difficult to look at trends, with the exception of a tri-year aerial trend count. It is not possible to model this interstate herd. Classification data is not collected consistently. We have experienced a reduction in nuisance moose complaints and reduced field observations of moose in the period between 2007 and 2011. Between the 2007 and the 2011 survey our field observations indicated we had a sharp reduction in moose populations. We also received complaints from moose hunters about moose numbers. This prompted us to drastically reduce moose hunting opportunity during that period.

Aerial trend data supports our previous concern about a reduction in moose numbers in the Uinta Herd Unit. The 2011 survey was conducted in ideal circumstances with high snow loads making moose highly visible and concentrated on specific wintering areas. The survey was also more intensely flown than previous surveys. This indicates that it was a good reference count and that we would have not missed large numbers of animals that may have been seen in previous surveys. The 2011 count represents the lowest total moose seen in Wyoming since the counts have been conducted. This information supports the deep cuts we have made in moose harvest over the past several years and we propose to stay conservative with harvest this year.

Moose surveys are flown in cooperation with Utah DNR, most recently in February 2013. Past results are shown below. Utah pays for a joint elk and moose survey on average every 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

### **TOTAL MOOSE COUNTED BY YEAR**

	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>UTAH DAGGETT (8B)</b>	103	84	109	107	95	NA	74
<b>UTAH SUMMIT (8A)</b>	182	229	243	150	181	92	104
<b>WYOMING</b>	393	289	334	270	314	232	174
<b>TOTAL WYOMING AND UTAH SUMMIT</b>	575	518	577	420	495	324	278
<b>TOTAL</b>	678	602	686	527	590	324	352

#### **Harvest Data**

Antlerless harvest opportunity has been eliminated in this herd unit. We have drastically reduced the number of licenses in the last five years. Type 1 hunts have had good success rates in the last three years. Tooth age data indicates at current hunting levels we are able to recruit a few older animals into the population and have them available to hunters.

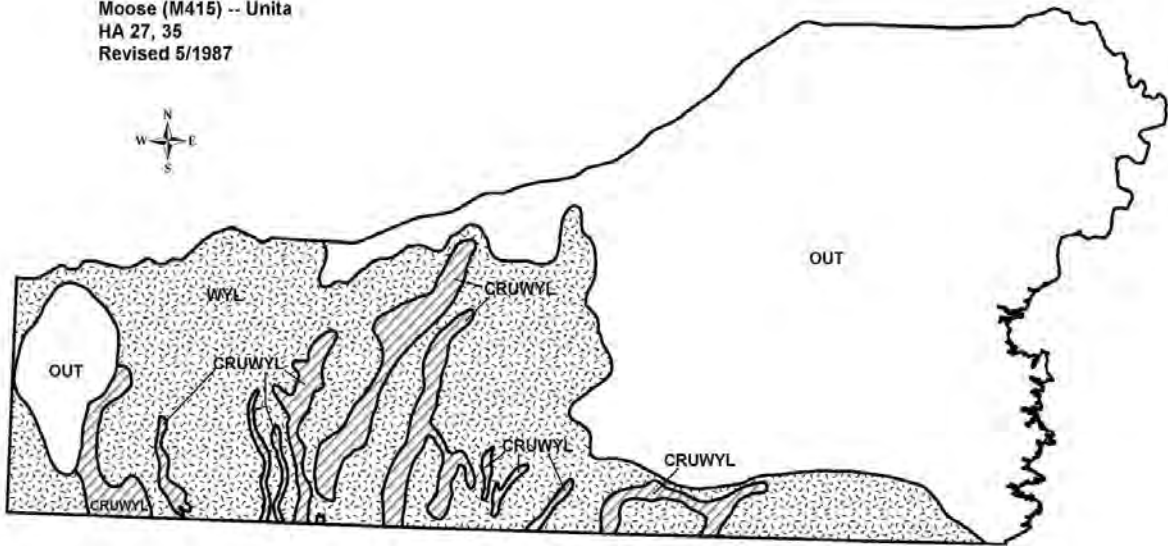
#### **Population**

Due to interstate nature of this herd no working model exists. Weather severity is usually the determining factor in the number of moose that come into Wyoming from Utah during the winter. This and other factors make data collected inconsistent and unreliable.

#### **Management Summary**

For 2013 hunting seasons we will remain conservative with hunter harvest. Hunt Area 44 will be closed for 2013, and no antlerless harvest will be allowed in the herd unit. This is an effort to allow maximum growth of the herd toward objective. However, hunting is not likely to be the limiting factor for this herd. Concerns regarding both disease and habitat (specifically willow browse condition) have existed for years in this herd unit.

Moose (M415) -- Unit  
HA 27, 35  
Revised 5/1987







## 2012 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Moose

PERIOD: 6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013

HERD: MO417 - LINCOLN

HUNT AREAS: 26, 33, 36, 40

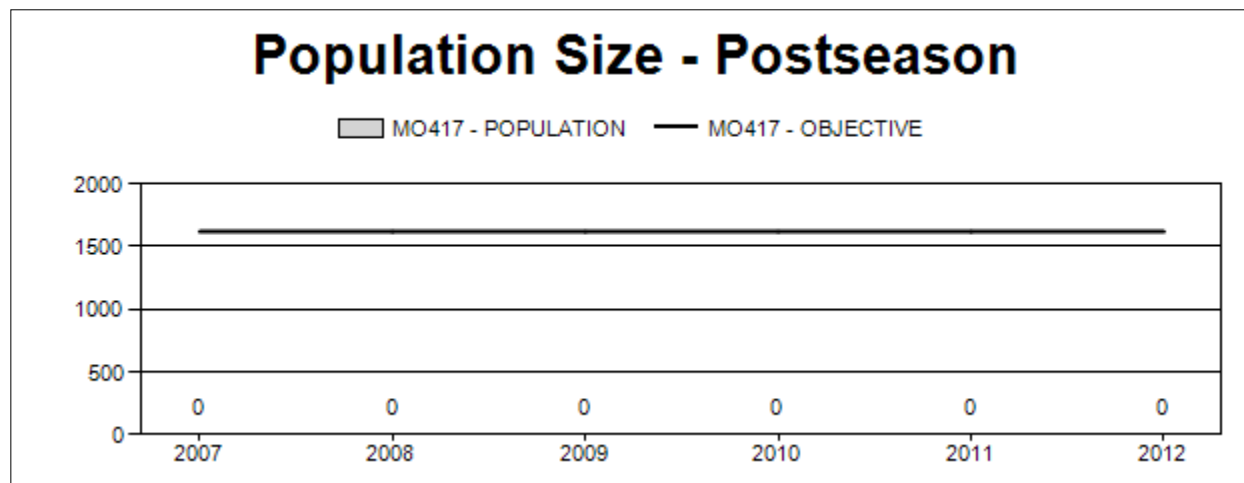
PREPARED BY: JEFF SHORT

	<u>2007 - 2011 Average</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 Proposed</u>
Population:	NA	NA	NA
Harvest:	59	43	41
Hunters:	63	45	45
Hunter Success:	94%	96%	91%
Active Licenses:	63	45	45
Active License Percent:	94%	96%	91%
Recreation Days:	401	326	450
Days Per Animal:	6.8	7.6	11.0
Males per 100 Females	65	75	
Juveniles per 100 Females	37	38	

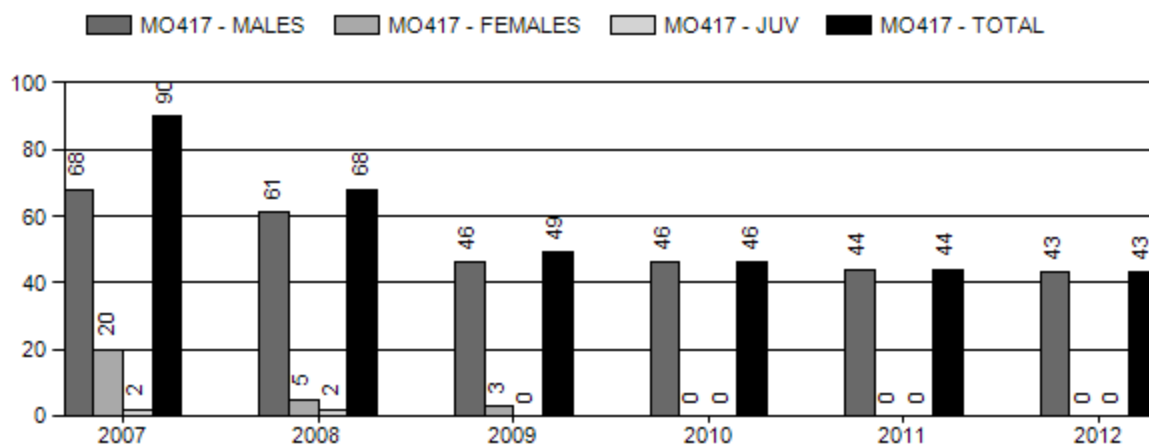
Population Objective:	1,620
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	NA
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	NA
Model Date:	None

**Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):**

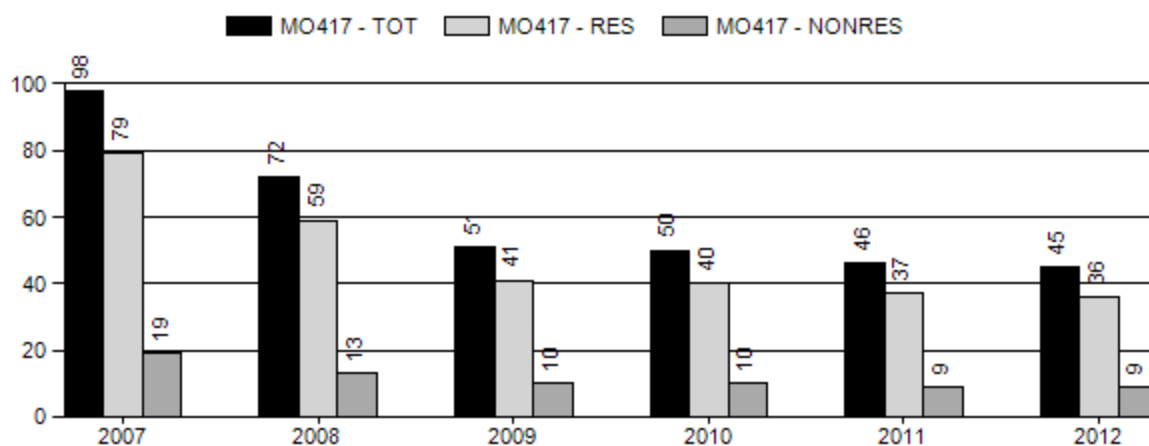
	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females $\geq$ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Males $\geq$ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA	NA
Total:	NA	NA
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA	NA



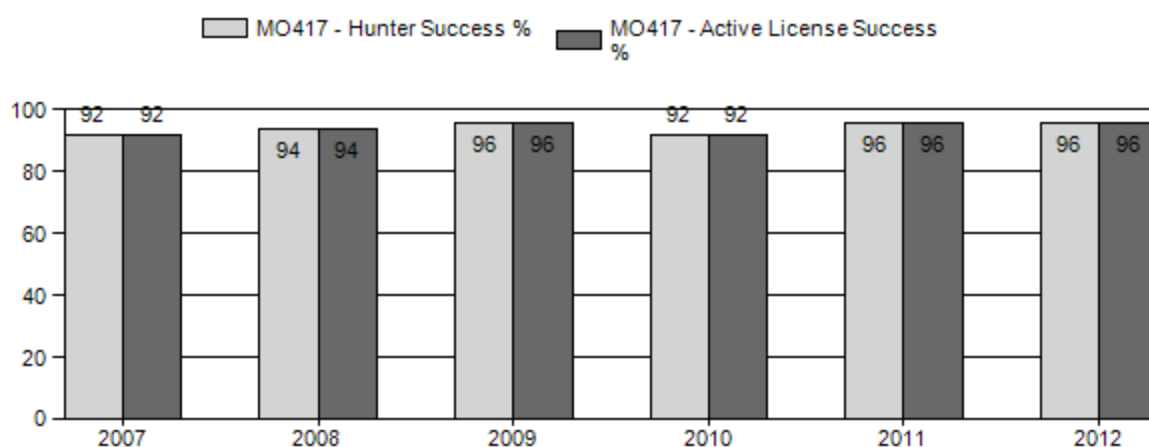
## Harvest



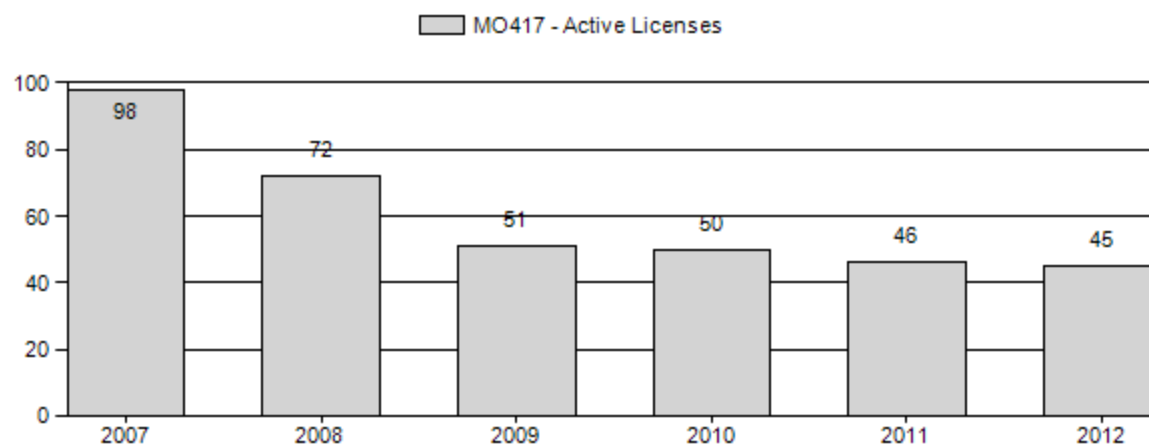
## Number of Hunters



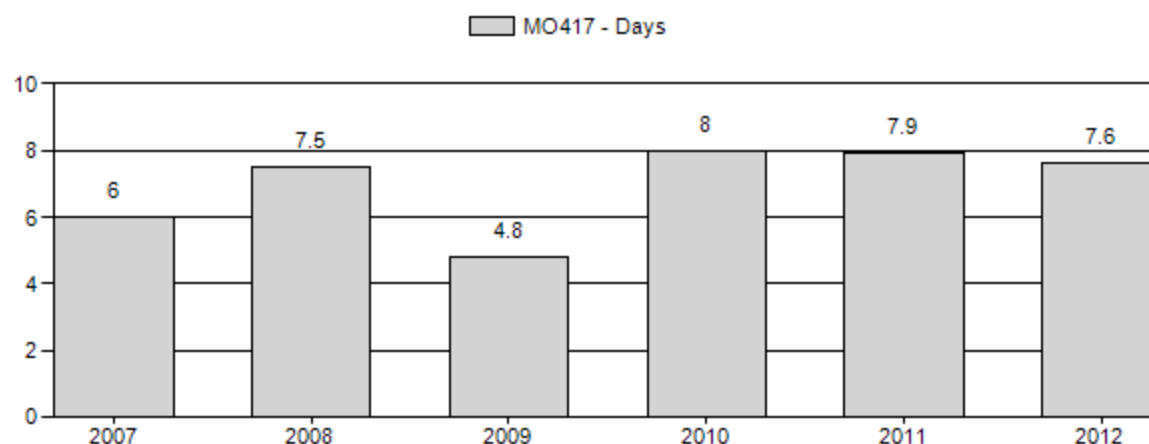
## Harvest Success



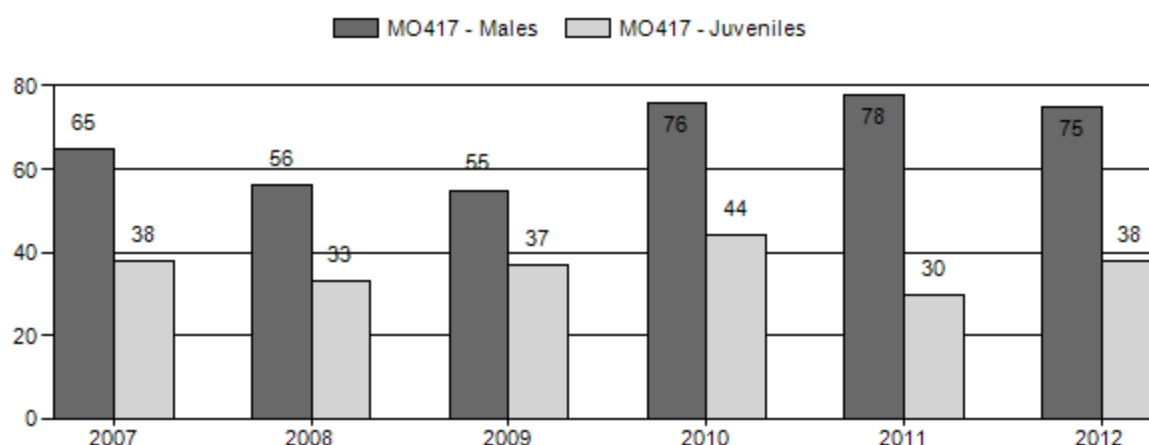
## Active Licenses



## Days per Animal Harvested



## Postseason Animals per 100 Females



## 2007 - 2012 Postseason Classification Summary

for Moose Herd MO417 - LINCOLN

Year	Post Pop	MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES		Tot CIs	CIs Obj	Males to 100 Females				Young to		
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			Ylg	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2007	0	0	93	93	32%	144	49%	55	19%	292	0	0	65	65	± 10	38	± 7	23
2008	0	0	0	90	29%	162	53%	54	18%	306	0	0	0	56	± 0	33	± 0	21
2009	0	0	53	53	28%	97	52%	36	19%	186	0	0	55	55	± 9	37	± 7	24
2010	0	0	0	103	35%	135	45%	59	20%	297	0	0	0	76	± 0	44	± 0	25
2011	0	0	0	47	38%	60	48%	18	14%	125	0	0	0	78	± 17	30	± 9	17
2012	0	0	6	6	35%	8	47%	3	18%	17	0	0	75	75	± 0	38	± 0	21

## 2013 HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES : **Moose**

HERD UNIT : **LINCOLN (417)**

HUNT AREAS: **26, 33, 36, 40**

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
26	1	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	40	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose
33					CLOSED
36, 40	1	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	5	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose
26, 36, 40	Archery	Sept. 1	Sept. 30		Refer to Section 3 of this chapter

Hunt Area	License Type	Quota change from 2012
<b>Herd Unit Total</b>		<b>None</b>

### Management Evaluation

**Current Postseason Population Management Objective:** 1,620

**Management Strategy:** Special

**2012 Postseason Population Estimate:** ~600

**2013 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate:** ~600

### **Herd Unit Issues**

A significant portion of the lower elevation moose habitat for this herd unit is on private land, and landowner tolerance of moose can be an issue, although less so with reduced numbers of moose. Moose coming into towns and residing in yards has been an issue in the past, especially in the town of Kemmerer. This herd unit is not a closed population with the northern boundary line being through prime moose habitat (Labarge Creek).

The advent of parasite caused mortalities of unknown magnitude in the herd complicates management. There is a lack of knowledge on disease issues in this herd. We have had several documented cases of Elaeophorosis caused deaths in this herd and feel that this may have had a

significant population effect. Known elaeophorosis caused mortalities have been down significantly in the last three years. However, moose with this disease that we have had to euthanize in the past have typically occurred during the summer months. Carcasses disappear rapidly during this time period.

In Hunt Area 40 the moose population is almost entirely on private lands along the Ham's Fork River. Like Area 36, this is a very small population of moose, that tends to increase during the winter months. It was increasingly difficult for moose hunters to find moose in areas 36 and 40. We have combined the two hunt areas with a total of 5 permits. This allows hunters to travel more to find a moose.

### **Weather**

Weather during 2012 and into 2013 was extremely dry and warmer than normal. The winters of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 were mild with low snowpack resulting in good over winter survival. However, the dry spring and summer of 2012 negatively impacted summer and winter range forage production. Conditions were better at higher elevations.

### **Habitat**

Habitat data collection has been inconsistently collected in this herd unit and has been absent in the recent past.

### **Field Data**

Moose surveys are done from a helicopter with West Green River elk surveys. Classification data is collected during those flights. The winter of 2012/13 has been very mild and moose have not migrated as far as normal to crucial winter ranges. The joint elk and moose survey is to be flown every other year and is scheduled for February of 2014.

### **Harvest Data**

Antlerless harvest opportunity has been eliminated in this herd unit. We have dramatically reduced the number of licenses in the last six years. Type 1 hunts still have very high success rates. Tooth age data indicates we are able to recruit older animals into the population and have them available to hunters. A few very large-antlered (>50") moose are harvested annually in this herd unit.

### **Population**

There is no model for this moose herd. We collect classification data on moose during elk and deer flights. Calf ratios remain good. Bull ratios are very good with the last three years being in the high 70's. Field observations indicate that the herd has declined considerably over the past 10 years. For four consecutive years in Area 26 we saw very low numbers of moose on post-season classification surveys. This was very concerning considering counting conditions were ideal in post-season 2007 and post-season 2010 surveys. We had also experienced a reduction in nuisance moose complaints and reduced field observations of moose. Moose are rarely an issue in the town of Kemmerer, a very common occurrence in the recent past. This information prompted us to reduce harvest on this herd significantly over the last several years.

### **Management Summary**

In Hunt Areas 26, 36 and 40 the 2013 hunting season will be no change from the 2012 season. Harvest opportunity has been substantially reduced in this herd over the past several years. We propose to remain conservative until such time moose numbers recover, if they ever do. Hunt Area 33 will remain closed for 2013, as has been the case for a decade. Moose in this area are confined to the riparian areas along the Green River. Due to high hunter success, and low

densities of moose, this area cannot sustain a harvest every year. However, recently Seedskedee National Wildlife Refuge has requested we begin hunting moose in this area again to reduce impacts to woody riparian species, specifically cottonwoods. No antlerless harvest will be allowed in the herd unit in 2013. The objective for this herd and management strategy were last revised in 2004.

